Message from Robert P. Smart

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Grand Valley State University

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Message from Robert P. Smart
Vice Provost for Research Administration and
Executive Director of the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence

It gives us great pleasure to present the 2013 Grand Valley State University McNair Scholars Journal. It is the culmination of the collaborative explorations conducted by our student scholars and their faculty mentors through our Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program. Their contributions to this journal represent the persistence and creativity of our students and the faculty mentors who exemplify the dedication of our campus to undergraduate success.

The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, now in its 19th year at Grand Valley State University, is a federally-funded program geared to provide research opportunities for low-income/first-generation, and underrepresented college undergraduates to better prepare them for graduate school. At GVSU, our strategic goals and values align with the McNair Scholars Program as we strive to improve both the diversity and quality of our students and prepare them for success beyond their undergraduate experience.

We would like to congratulate each of the McNair Scholars whose research is presented here. We would like to thank the faculty mentors who have worked so closely with our McNair Scholars to propel their intellectual curiosity and foster their goals and dreams. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the staff of the McNair Scholars Program; it is their dedication and hard work that help make these successes possible. We hope you enjoy learning about the great work done by our students and their faculty mentors.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Smart Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Research Administration and
Executive Director of the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence